

## **REMARKS**

The courtesy extended by the Examiner to Applicant's attorney during telephone conversations on September 7 and September 8, 2005 is noted with appreciation. During the first telephone conversation, the Examiner advised that he continued to reject claim 1 but only objected to claim 2, so that claim 2 would be patentable if it were placed in independent form. The Examiner also took the position that the invention defined by new independent claim 17 is directed to an invention that is different from that defined by claims 1 and 2, and verbally imposed a requirement for election of species.

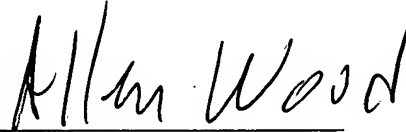
In the second telephone conference, Applicant's attorney advised that the client is willing to place objected-to claim 2 in independent form by canceling the claim and transferring its subject matter to claim 1. Applicant's attorney elected the species of claim 1, and advised that the client is willing to cancel claims directed to the non-elected species (that is, claims 17-23). It was determined in the telephone conference that these changes would be made by way of a Supplemental Amendment rather than an Examiner's Amendment.

Accordingly, the present Supplemental Amendment cancels claim 2 and transfers its subject matter to claim 1. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claim 1 and its dependent claims are now in condition for allowance.

The present Amendment also cancels claims 7-23. This cancellation is without prejudice to a possible divisional application.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Allen Wood". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Allen Wood  
Registration No. 28,134  
Customer No. 23995  
(202) 326-0222  
(202) 408-0924 (facsimile)  
(202) 408-5297 (facsimile)

AW:rw